

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07470 212154Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9549

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MX

SUBJECT: MOYA PALENCIA'S VIEWS ON INTERNAL SITUATION

DURING MY CALL ON MOYA ON PUERTO RICAN MATTER, (IN WHICH I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY POLGAR IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE HIM) I CONGRATULATED MOYA ON THE EFFECTIVE MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD IN EFFECT GOVERNED THE COUNTRY DURING THE PRESIDENT'S LENGTHLY ABSENCE. MOYA WAS OBVIOUSLY GRATIFIED BY THIS REMARK AND OBSERVED WITH A CERTAIN SELF SATISFACTION THAT HE HAD INDEED BEEN FORTUNATE IN MAINTAINING TRANQUILITY. NEVERTHELESS, HE OBSERVED THAT THE PERIOD HAD NOT BEEN WITHOUT ITS TROUBLE SPOTS AND HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE CONCERNED AT THE RECENT REPEATED TERRORIST ASSASSINATIONS OF POLICEMEN. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THESE WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND THE WORK OF A SMALL, HIGHLY DISCIPLINED EXTREMIST GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS WERE PREPARED TO ACT WITHOUT REGARD TO PERSONAL SAFETY IN CARRYING OUT THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE GROUP WAS ACTIVE ONLY IN MEXICO CITY AND TO A MUCH LESSER EXTENT IN THE CITY OF OAXACA, AS TERRORIST ELEMENTS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY WIPED OUT IN GUADALAJARA. THESE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WERE NATURALLY OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL OR PENETRATE THE ACTIVITY OF THIS TYPE OF SMALL TIGHTLY KNIT GROUP PREPARED TO TAKE ANY RISKS. NEVERTHELESS ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT POLICEMEN WERE ALL TOO EASY A TARGET AND IT WAS AT LEAST ENCOURAGING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCCESSFUL BANK HOLDUPS IN RECENT WEEKS. SEEN IN

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07470 212154Z

PROPER PERSPECTIVE IT WAS ALSO IN HIS OPINION REASSURING TO

NOTE THAT THESE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER LAMENTABLE,
WERE MINOR INDEED COMPARED WITH THE MUCH BROADER SECURITY
THREATS WHICH EXISTED THREE YEARS AGO.

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